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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,334	09/08/2003	Yong Chong	198497	1663

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HARRIS BEACH LLP
99 Garnsey Road
Pittsford, NY 14534

EXAMINER

VU, JIMMY T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,334

Applicant(s)

CHONG, YONG

Examiner

Jimmy T. Vu

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Other references have been incorporated to strengthen the examiner's position with respect to the electrical ballast and dimming switch comprising a first board for holding a ballast circuit and a second board for holding power semiconductor devices and a switch responsive to one or more applied mechanical forces for turning lamps on and off and dimming the lamps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spira (U.S. Patent number 3,746,923).

Regarding claim 12, Spira discloses an electrical ballast (Fig. 1) and dimming switch (132) comprising a first board (80) for holding a ballast circuit (Figs. 1, 7-9) and a second board (30) for holding power semiconductor devices and a switch (132)

Art Unit: 2821

responsive to one or more applied mechanical forces for turning lamps on and off and dimming the lamps (Figs. 1, 7-9; col. 1, lines 30-33, cols. 3 and 4, lines 1-65).

Regarding claim 12, Spira discloses an electrical device for controlling one or more fluorescent lamps comprising:

means (103, 104) for receiving an alternating current input (Fig. 1);

means (52, 101) for generating an output to dim a fluorescent lamp (Figs. 1, 7-9);

a first board (80) for holding a ballast circuit (Figs. 1, 7-9);

a second board (30) for holding power semiconductor devices (Fig. 1); and

a switch (132) disposed on one of the boards and responsive to one or more applied mechanical forces for dimming one or more fluorescent lamps (Figs. 1 and 7-9; col. 1, lines 30-33, cols. 3 and 4, lines 1-65).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-11 and 14 are allowed.

None of the prior art teaches the circuit for dimming the lamp comprising first and second gate control circuits coupled respectively to the first and second voltage regulator and to the oscillator for generating gate control signals in accordance with the oscillator output, and first and second pairs of gate controlled power semiconductor devices connected to the gate control circuits for supplying power to fluorescent lighting devices in accordance with the gate control signals.

Art Unit: 2821

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy T Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1832. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F: 9 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800.

Jimmy Vu

November 07, 2006



TUYET VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER